DEMAND II—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,000 under Demand II—Public Works Department, for closing leakages of the main dam at Pechipara.

On account of the extraordinary dry weather that we have been experiencing last year, we have been able to push forward our programme of closing of leakages in the Pechipara dam, which was to be spread over a number of years. The extraordinarily dry weather has enabled us to do much more than we anticipated. It is to cover the increased expenditure that this demand is made.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is there any water in the lake now to leak through the dam ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : I do not quite understand the member, Sir. I may inform the member that the present level of water in the dam is 3·7 feet.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether this kind of work, namely closing the leakages in the dam, is going to be an annual feature ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : No. It is reported in 1108 that the dam was leaking very badly, and it was decided to close the leakages bit by bit as the weather permits. An estimate for about Rs. 50,000 was prepared and the work was to be spread over a period of about three years.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I ask whether the closing of leakages will increase the capacity of the reservoir ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : There will be less wastage of water. Further these leakages are a source of danger to the dam.

PRESIDENT : I believe the work is intended to impound all the water that is collected.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Will the work be finished this year itself, or will it go on next year also ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : The work is still going on ; perhaps, it may go on to next year also.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : When were the leakages last closed ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : I do not think at any time since the dam was constructed has any work of this nature been done.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether, after the leakages are completely closed, any water will be let down ?

PRESIDENT : I do not understand what you mean by 'let down.'

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I want to know whether, after the leakages are completely closed, any water will be let down for the use of the people who live down below.

PRESIDENT : You mean 'allowed.'

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : I do not quite understand the question.

PRESIDENT : It seems to me that he wants to know whether, after the leakages are closed, when you may have about 42 or 40 feet of water, you would allow the people in the neighbourhood to make use of the water for domestic purposes also.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I want to make myself clear. My question is whether, after closing all the leakages, there will be possibility of any water flowing down the river.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : Certainly, when the lake is full and water flows over surplus weir.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I ask how the member makes out a case for the closing of the leakages when there is no water to leak? Where is the urgent necessity for a supplementary grant when there is no prospect of water leaking in the near future?

PRESIDENT : Is it the intention of the Honourable Member that the work must wait until water gets stored and actually leaks out?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Expert opinion, as far as I have been able to gather, is that leakages are best closed when water is actually leaking. It seems the cement will close the leakages most effectively when there is water leaking. Why not the Government wait till we get water in the lake, till the water actually leaks out?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : The only place to prevent water leaking is at the water face of the dam and not at the back.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Sivatanu Pillai might have got his opinion from some other expert.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—EXCISE.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5,728, (Rs. 4,400 for transport charges of salt under 3B.—Salt—Salt Business, and Rs 1,328 for staff for the Sri Chitra Tirunal Muthusvami Salt Factory and for the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory.

Sir, usually, we provide a budget allotment of about a lakh of rupees for transport charges of salt. But, for the current year, only a sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided. The reason for that was that, out of a provision of about Rs. 90,000 for this purpose in the budget for 1109,

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